We do not complain, but we wish to have our sympathizers know that we are doing more than we can afford to do. We desire to work hard while we are here, believing that the race will be finished sooner.

Now brethren do not forget that we are willing to do all that we can to send out an acceptable paper and favor us with prompt payment so that our agents will find some pleasure in working for the paper; and when you want it improved we shall find great pleasure in doing it as soon as we are supported.

The weather during the past week has been rather dreary, and in some parts of the country the roads are exceedingly muddy, so that church work has almost come to a stand-still, and our correspondents have almost quit writing. To fill the inside for next week's issue we are obliged to draw upon our faithful stand-by, SEL. Now brethren do not let this department of the work fall so far in the rear, but send in essays from week to week that we may have the hook full. A good way to do is to adopt a system. Decide that you are going to write ten, twelve, sixteen or more articles each year, and then carry it out. Many of our writers could easily write an article every two weeks, or at least one a month and that would give us more original matter than we are now publishing. Spasmodic efforts are not just exactly what is needed to keep a paper alive and interesting: we want more system, more regularity. When one gets an inspiration to write all seem to catch it and then there is too much at one time and most likely on a similar theme. Sharpen up the pencils and get the old pens down brethren, and make us glad in this way. Do not think that because you have not time to write an article ten or fifteen columns long that your contributions will not be accept able. We are fast readers these days and we all want brief articles; gems of truth nicely expressed.

We would say in reply to brother Holsinger's inquiry about the Mission Fund, that it still *is*, although receiving but little attention. It looks to us as though we were getting too many irons in the fire in the begging line and we put that one upon the shelf until the College Debt is out of the way. A sister started that enterprise, and she has not gone unrewarded; and the Fund has a nice little sum to its credit; and as soon as the College debt is out of the way it will come forward for attention, and the sisters and the little folks will send it along with a hurrah.

If we had effectual wishing power we would wish a nice sum of money into the Kansas mission treasury. This, however should develop no discouragement; the brethren should move bravely on—little by little great works are accomplished.

Brother McFaden announces this week that he will be unable to answer calls for preaching during the spring and summer on account of increased work in his own field. This is encouraging, although it is desirable to have him at other points, now and then. It is a very good sign when the home duties grow to be such that the laborer is employed all the time. May the Brethren cause continue to prosper in the East.

Bro. E. L. Yoder writes to a brother here concerning his temporal matters in Missouri, and informs us that he is engaging in farming on an extensive scale; but we are sorry to hear that sister Yoder is still an invalid.

Brother Brown can now complain no longer. The brethren at Hudson, Iowa, are ready to give him a quilt on certain *conditions*.

The report is now going about the country that the great champion of church government doctrine, of the opposition, I. J. Rosenberger, has been brought before a council for walking improperly. If this is true we would like to know it, and if it is not we would like to know it. We want to do him justice.

Sister Kline of Lancaster, Pa., sends a very nice letter expressing much satisfaction over brother McFaden's visit. We will publish it in our next.

Next Lord's day we expect to preach in the Christian church, Mansfield, O., in the morning and in the evening in another part of the city.

The Kansas brethren have done a noble work this winter, and firmly planted the cause. Next year an abundant crop will be gathered in that new State. There is a struggle to keep the work moving, but that only makes them the more determined and equipes them better for the contest.

We receive from brother Bashor, as we go to press, an article for next week, in reply to brother Moyer.

The sisters are making a good beginning at raising the $1,000. As April 1st is now at hand, we expect a good roll of honor for next week.

Items of church news are very scarce this week, but from the appearance of things there will be a plenty next week.

Bro. W. C. Perry has been next to ill during the past week.

The children continue to send in letters at a commendable rate. They are proving themselves apt writers; and with their letters some are sending dimes for the Mission Fund.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—On the 2nd of Feb., the waters were troubled by one more being abopted into the family of God. One who had claimed that there was no God but the God of nature. So we see that Zion still moves along.

WM. PULLEN.

Williams, Oregon.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—Please tell Brother P. J. Brown, of Congress, Ohio, if he will come to Hudson, Iowa, he shall have a Quilt. Let him try, if he dares.

J. NICHOLSON.

To Whom it May Concern.

I will not be able to answer any calls during this spring and summer; my own field is large and extra work demands special attention, truly,

JOHN DUKE.

At Home Again.

March 23.—After an absence of fifty-seven days preaching the gospel, I arrived safe at home to day. Our oldest daughter (sister W. S. Showalter,) is so she can set up again. She was afflicted with inflammatory rheumatism nearly eight weeks. My wife was at her beside night and day for over five weeks.

Our last place of meeting was at Drywood, Bourbon Co., Kans. Three applicants for baptism when we left with a good prospect for more. Brethren Hixson and Watson still continue the meetings. Hope their efforts will be crowned with *great* success. During our trip we saw some twenty blood-bought souls turn to God, and we also formed many pleasant acquaintances. God's name be praised that in his hands we are still an humble instrument in doing at least some good, notwithstanding the terrible opposition we have to meet with. Part of our time we labored in the capacity of State Missionary, especially at Montana, Mulvane and Drywood. Our expenses on this trip for travel and hotel fare were $24.50. Our time (57 days) at the rate allowed by our State Convention ($1.50 per day) would be worth $85. 50,

Total for time,	$85.50
Expenses,	$24.50
	$110.00
Receipts,—South Haven church	$38.75
Mulvane church,	22.40
Pleasant Valley,	18.90
Drywood,	5.25
A. J. Hixson,	5.00
Total,	$90.30

Shortage, $19.70.

Of this I am willing to pay $4.70 myself. Will not the churches in Kansas place enough in the hands of the treasurer to make up the balance. ($15.00) We would gladly give the whole $19.70, and $50 more on top of it were we able to do so. But brethren, we are worse off than nothing. Please brethren don't ask us to do so. Poverty and distress is our portion, mainly for not having been financially sustained by the church we served during the years of our physical vigor. We are now gray and getting old and we say again, Brethren, don't ask us to sacrifice more than our share.

We thank all for their kindness during our recent trip.

We preached about 59 sermons during the trip.

To morrow morning we take up the hammer and trowel, and during the summer shall probably work at our trade. We would willingly serve in the ministry, but we must provide for our family.

To those who appeal to us with Macedonan calls we can only say, (and we weep while we say it,) not at this time, brethren.

Farewell to all. Fraternally.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Slaughter of Song Birds.

In reading the papers we find that some good people are getting alarmed about the slaughter of our song birds and are circulating the following pledge; "We hereby agree neither to buy nor use for any purpose whatever the plumage of birds which have been killed for the purpose of decoration. And we promise to exercise all our influence to further the object of this pledge which is for the preservation of the slaughter of song birds. Ministers ought to devote some of their time to a subject which concerns every lover of our beautiful and sweet-voiced birds. Namely, the custom of wearing wings and entire bodies of birds on hats. It must be apparent to every one that the slaughter of these pretty creatures whose beauty and vocal powers are hardly more remarkable than their usefulness in destroying noxious insects, and in preserving fruit and vegitation. In a single season forty thousand birds were killed on Cape Cod for hat trimmings and the butchery is carried on in the same way in many other localities.

Of course all this cruel distrction of birds will cease when women cease to wear them upon their hats for ornaments and it seems impossible that they will continue to encourage this barbarous fashion after they learn its results. Few women would pay any one to kill a song-bird that they might have the wings and tips to adorn themselves, but the majority would probably cry out against such a cruel sacrifice to vanity. But they find their hats already trimmed and never think that the purchaser of one ornamented with a bird really causes the death of a beautiful and tuneful bird. God did not create them for us to ornament ourselves but for us to look at and to hear them sing praises to their Maker. I would much rather see a bird alive flying about in the tree tops than a dead bird on a hat. I hope that all the ladies who read this may be benefitted by it and make up their minds to use there influence in favor of the birds.

KATEURA L. WOLFE.

Louisville, Ohio.

Painting for Eternity.

When the ancient painter was asked why he devoted so much time to the perfecting of his work, he answered, "I paint for eternity." His eternity was a short one. His colors have faded, his canvas has perished, and nothing he has done preserves the memory of his skill. So temples have been built, monuments erected, statues chisled, of which nothing remains behind.

Compared with these, how grandly permanent is the work which the Christian does. Not for a lifetime, an age, or a century but for all ages does he labor. Says Dr. Cumming, "The builder builds for a century; we for eternity. The painter paints for a generation; we forever. The statuary comes out of marble that soon perishes; let us try to get the likeness of Christ, that shall endure forever. A hundred thousand men were employed in Egypt to construct a pyramidal tomb for a king; we are engaged in a far nobler work, in constructing temples for the living God." The years of time are passing, but the ages of eternity roll on with ceasless flow. Our present life is but a vapor, and the things which pertain to it vanish from our view; but the eternal glory awaits us; and whatever work is done in the name and for the honor of Christ, shall in the great day stand revealed in all its divine perfection as an eternal monument to the fidelity of those who work the work of God. Let us then whom God honors with the opportunities of serving him, strive with all fidel ty to perfect our work, that we may receive the great reward which he shall give his faithful servants "in that day."—SAFEGUARD.

Christian Endurance.

But there is no greater strength ever manifested on earth than that of quiet endurance. I have known, and so have you, those on whom for years there has not risen a single unclouded day; those, too, who knew all the gladness of life, but for whom the sun was darkened long before it had climbed to its meridian height; those whose bereavements have involved the loss of everything that seemed to make life precious; those who have been rendered permanently helpless by chronic disease, and can never hope for a painless waking hour or a night of restful sleep; those whose penury has been absolute and entire, with no prospect of relief. Among these have been the very bravest, strongest souls that I have ever known; and it has seemed to me that no emergency of outward action, not even of the foremost of the sacramental host, in waging the great conflicts in behalf of the truth and the right, has equaled theirs, which could endure without murmuring, and could render constant thanks to God for the heavenly manna which has fed them, for the living waters of which they have drunk deep draughts, for the hope, full of immortality, which has never for a moment forsaken them.—A. P. PEABODY, D. D.

Sister's Band to Raise $1.000 for Ashland College.

Previously reported,	$17.50
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Emma Puterbaugh	1.00
Susan Homan	1.00
Sister, Lancaster, Pa.	1.00

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He shall be immortal who liveth until he be stoned by one without faith.

The defects of the mind, like those of the face, grow worse as we grow old.